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Carmarthen Rural Sanitary Authority

49th Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Conditions of the Carmarthen
Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1940

BY

ELFYN T. JONES

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CARMARTHEN:

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PREFACE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Carmarthen Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1940, which is in the form suggested by Circular 2067 (Wales).

The year has been a difficult one, and a big strain has been placed upon the Public Health Department. Many obstacles which at first appeared unsurmountable were eventually overcome, and for this I wish to gratefully acknowledge the work carried out by all the members of my staff, and to thank the members of the Council for the wholehearted manner in which they have supported me.

I wish to thank my colleagues and their staffs for their continued co-operation and help.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ELFYN T. JONES.

Medical Officer of Health :

ELFYN T. JONES, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Clerk to the Rural District Council :

F. GWYNNE LEWIS, Esq.

Engineer and Surveyor :

W. E. JONES, M.I.M. and C.Y.E., M.R.SAN.I.

Sanitary Inspectors :

WM. WILLIAMS, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I. (Meat Certificate)
(Appointed Senior Sanitary Inspector, September, 1938).

W. EMLYN JONES, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.
(Meat Certificate).

H. E. WILLIAMS, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.
(Meat Certificate).

Clerks to the Medical Officer of Health :

D. J. LEWIS (Left for H.M. Forces on the 24th August,
G. GRIFFITHS. 1940).

Miss J. P. JONES.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area is preponderantly rural in character, only that portion bordering on the coal-fields being non-agricultural. The boundaries have been unaltered during the year and the area is 202,733 acres.

Populations, Rateable Value, etc.

The estimated population made by the Registrar General for mid-year, 1940, was 28,150, but this has considerably increased by the admission of evacuees, etc., to the area. The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year according to the rate book is 7,694.

The rateable value is £62,614, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £260 17s. 10d.

Vital Statistics.

			Total	Males	Females
Live	Legitimate	...	411	213	198
Births	Illegitimate	...	18	10	8

Thus there were 429 live births and this represents a birth rate of 15.23 per 1,000 population.

			Total	Males	Females
Still Births	...	...	15	10	5
Deaths	...	...	422	221	201

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—14.99.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	0.00	0.00
Other Puerperal Causes	2.00	4.50
Total	2.00	4.50

Infantile Mortality (under 1 year of age).

All infants per 1,000 live births—60.32.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—60.53.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—55.5.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—59.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—1.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the area during the year is 422. Males—221. Females—201.

The crude-death rate is 14.99 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. The factor given in order to estimate the standardised death rate is 1.03, and this gives a standardised death rate of 15.43.

Comparison with other Areas.

	Death Rate per 1,000 population.
England and Wales	14.3
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns ...	15.8
148 Smaller Towns	12.8
London Administrative County	17.8
Carmarthen Rural District	15.4

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

During the year the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service established a Bacteriological Laboratory at Penlan Road, Carmarthen. This Laboratory is under the administration of the Medical Research Council, and in Carmarthen is under the control of Dr. Fry and Dr. Boissard. The Laboratory carries out bacteriological investigations and during the year it has been widely used for the examination of specimens forwarded from the Public Health Department. The Laboratory has been the main

prop upon which the Public Health Department has relied in its efforts to limit the spread of infectious disease and therefore minimise the danger to the public health. Its value to the efficiency of the Health Services in the area has been infinite, and I cannot pay too high a tribute to the zeal and hard work Drs. Fry and Boissard have willingly and unstintingly given at all times of the day and night. In addition to their Laboratory work they have also given invaluable assistance in the field.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Mr. W. E. Jones, Engineer, has provided details of work carried out during the year. He reports as follows:—

No new scheme of supply has been carried out and brought into operation, during the year, but the existing supplies have been maintained in proper repair and several small improvements executed in various parts of the Rural District.

The abnormally dry Summer of 1940 placed a severe strain upon the supplies throughout the Rural District and a few of the smaller ones failed. The larger supplies proved equal to the demands except the supply at Whitland where the restrictions caused some inconvenience to consumers.

Close attention has been given to the matter of Chlorination. A plant has been installed to chlorinate the supply of Pendine Village, and arrangements are now being made to instal permanent plants to chlorinate the two largest supplies in the Rural District, viz., Llanarthney and Llanddarog water supply scheme and St. Ishmael water supply scheme. The chlorination of other supplies is also under consideration.

During the year an endeavour was made to have a bacteriological analysis of all water supplies under the control of the Council.

A careful watch was kept on all water supplies, both those giving satisfactory and unsatisfactory results.

Parish of Abergwili.

The position of the water supply in this village remains unchanged and conditions at Abergwili must still be considered serious.

Samples of Water taken during the year.

Date	Source	Type of Examination	Result
12/2/40	Whitland Supply	Bacteriological	Highly satisfactory
4/3/40	Abernant Well	„	Highly satisfactory
4/3/40	Rickett's Mill Well, Abernant	„	Highly satisfactory
6/3/40	Llanarthney and Llanddarog ... Western Supply	„	Highly satisfactory
6/3/40	Llanboidy Supply	„	Fairly satisfactory
13/3/40	Ferryside Supply	„	Fairly satisfactory
20/3/40	Conwil Village	„	Satisfactory
20/3/40	Cwmduad Village Supply ...	„	Highly satisfactory
20/3/40	Woodcock Lodge, Bronwydd ...	„	Unsatisfactory
3/4/40	Llanddowror Public Pump ...	„	Highly satisfactory
3/4/40	Dinas Village, Trelech, No. 1 Well	„	Highly satisfactory
3/4/40	Dinas Village, Trelech, No. 2	„	Highly satisfactory
3/4/40	Penybont Village, Trelech ...	„	Highly satisfactory
9/4/40	Lower Pump, St. Clears ...	„	Highly satisfactory
17/4/40	Public Well, Mydrim Village ...	„	Highly satisfactory
17/4/40	Gellywen Village Supply ...	„	Highly satisfactory
22/4/40	Corvus Well, St. Clears ...	„	Highly satisfactory
2/5/40	Trelech Village Water Supply	Chemical and Bacteriological	Satisfactory
16/5/40	Shallow Well at Cwmbach ...	Bacteriological	Highly satisfactory
16/5/40	Tap at Llanfallteg Village Supply	„	Highly satisfactory
24/5/40	Station Road, Pump, St. Clears	„	Satisfactory for a small rural supply
29/5/40	Llanginning School Well ...	„	Unsatisfactory
29/5/40	Croft Pump, St. Clears ...	„	Highly satisfactory
7/6/40	Upper Well, Clynderwen ...	„	Unsatisfactory
7/6/40	Blue Boar Spring, St. Clears ...	„	Highly satisfactory
26/7/40	Tynwydd Farm, Abernant ... (Proposed supply for N.P. School)	„	Unsatisfactory
16/8/40	Spring Water from Tap, War Junction, Carmarthen	„	Satisfactory

Date	Source	Type of Examination	Result
30/8/40	Narbon's Well, Llansadurnen ...	„	Unsatisfactory
30/8/40	Llanarthney and Llanddarog ... Supply	Chemical and Bacteriological	Satisfactory
17/10/40	Abergwili Village Western Supply	Bacteriological	Unsatisfactory
18/10/40	Storage Chamber, Bolahaul ... Mansion	„	Unsatisfactory
4/11/40	Llanginning School Yard ...	„	Unsatisfactory
9/11/40	Tap Water (Treparken Well in Trelech Village)	„	Unsatisfactory
2/11/40	Shallow Dip Well at Broadlay Ferry-side	„	Unsatisfactory
16 11/40	Supply at Village School, Church Hall, Abergwili	„	Unsatisfactory
19/11/40	No. 2 Well, Treparken, Trelech	„	Unsatisfactory
30/11/40	Western Supply—Llanstephan	„	Unsatisfactory
30/11/40	Eastern Supply—Llanstephan	„	Fairly satisfactory
27/12/40	Main Spring, Gosport, Street, Laugharne	„	Fairly satisfactory
27/2/40	Pump at Grist, Laugharne ...	„	Unsatisfactory

SCHOOLS.

There are 56 Elementary Schools (57 departments) in the area, and there has been no change during the year.

Schools Closed for Infectious Diseases, 1940.

Name of School.	Infectious Disease.	Period of Closure.
Merthyr N.P. ...	... Influenza ...	Feb. 5th—Feb. 18th
Ferry-side N.P. ...	... Measles ...	July 4th—July 14th

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The area is divided into three sections, each of which is supervised by a Sanitary Inspector. Emergency War work, including A.R.P., Salvage, Evacuation, etc., has caused many interruptions in the normal services of the sanitary inspectors.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The assistance given by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Penlan Road, Carmarthen, in the prevention of spread of infectious disease by the early detection of +ive swabs was invaluable.

The number of notifications received under the Public Health Act, 1936, was 262.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever accounted for 79 of the cases, 22 cases of Diphtheria and 17 cases of Scarlet Fever were isolated in the Isolation Hospitals.

Isolation of Infectious Disease Cases during 1940.

Disease	1939		1940	
	No. of Notifications	No. Admitted to Hospital	No. of Notifications	No. Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	17	3	49	17
Diphtheria	40	34	30	22
Erysipelas	5	2	3	0
Pneumonia	9	0	5	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	3	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	0	3	0
Measles	12	0	155	0
Whooping Cough ...	14	0	14	0
Total ...	101	39	262	42

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year a scheme for the immunisation of children was introduced. This scheme was administered by the Medical Practitioners resident in the area, and parents whose family income was below 12s. 6d. per head were enabled to have their

children immunised free of charge, the Rural District Council paying the Doctor's fee. Under this scheme 900 children were immunised.

The Government having declared that immunisation was to be free to the whole population, the Rural District Council in conjunction with the Borough Council decided to appoint a whole time Assistant to the Medical Officer of Health, for the purposes of Diphtheria immunisation. The new assistant will, it is hoped, take up these duties early next year.

Licences held in the Rural District Area under the Milk (Special Designation) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

No. of Tuberculin Tested Licences—113.

No. of Accredited Licences—475.

No. of Pasteurised Licences—2.

Milk Sampling.

Sampling of ungraded milk was carried out by your inspectors, whilst sampling of tuberculin tested and accredited milk was done by the County Council Officials.

- (a) No. of Tuberculin Tested Milk samples sent for bacteriological examination—86.
- (b) No. of Accredited Milk samples sent for bacteriological examination—301.
- (c) No. of ungraded milk samples—14.
 No. of ungraded milk samples satisfactory—5.
 No. of ungraded milk samples unsatisfactory—9.
 No. of ungraded milk samples examined for Tubercle Bacilli—Nil.

Over 60% of the Ungraded Milk Samples were unsatisfactory. The Public Health Department is still endeavouring to point out the importance of scrupulous cleanliness in milk production, and one hopes that those who are not already doing so will soon see the error of their ways.

Meat.

Throughout the year the abattoir in Carmarthen was used as the central place for the slaughtering of cattle, all other slaughterhouses in the Rural District being closed. The Sanitary

Inspectors attend at the abattoir at stated intervals and carry out inspection of carcasses slaughtered.

Tuberculosis.

During the year 22 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

Respiratory— Males— 9 Females—10

Non-Respiratory—Males—2 Females— 1

Deaths.

Respiratory— Males—9 Females—5

Non-Respiratory—Males—0 Females—1

New Cases of, and Mortality from Tuberculosis, 1940.

Age Period in Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—15	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
15—25	6	4	1	0	0	2	0	0
25—35	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
35—45	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	1
45—55	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
55—65	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0
65 and upwards,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	9	10	2	1	9	5	0	1

Rates per 1,000 Population of Notifications and Deaths.

Year	Notifications (New Cases)	Deaths
1935	1.09	0.91
1936	1.19	1.08
1937	1.31	0.92
1938	0.75	0.54
1939	0.87	0.47
1940	0.78	0.53

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Nature of Visit or Inspection	Llangendairne District.	Carmarthen District.	St. Clears District.	Total.
GENERAL SANITATION.				
Water Supplies	93	73	20	186
Drainage	126	108	23	257
Stables and Piggeries	10	...	...	10
Offensive Trades	4	...	54	58
Fried Fish Shops	6	...	...	6
Tents, Vans and Sheds	25	52	21	89
Factories	8	3	...	11
Workshops	6	2	...	8
Workplaces	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses	12	2	...	14
Public Conveniences	15	42	3	60
Refuse Collection	40	98	76	...
Refuse Disposal	51	...	152	...
Rats and Mice	21	12	16	49
Schools	18	2	...	20
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	62	103	110	275
Visits re-Emergency War Work	...	...	...	...
HOUSING.				
Under Public Health Acts.				
Number of houses inspected	24	72	...	96
Visits paid to above houses	59	83	...	142
Under Housing Acts.				
Number of houses inspected	47	126	...	173
Visits paid to above houses	101	141	...	242
Overcrowding.				
Number of houses inspected	39	12	...	51
Visits paid to above houses	39	15	...	54
Verminous Premises.				
Number of houses inspected	...	2	...	2
Visits paid to above houses	...	2	...	2
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	19	42	...	61
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.				
Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	38	28	30	96
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	17	28	...	45
No. of rooms disinfected	41	41	6	88

(0147 visits for area)
(1047 visits for area)

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA *(continued)*.

Nature of Visit or Inspection				Llangenneirne District.	Carmarthen District.	St. Clears District.	Total.
MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.							
Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops.							
No. of Slaughterhouses in area ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. of Slaughterhouses visited ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. of visits to Shops and Stalls ...	...	...	...	6	...	...	6
No. of visits to Butchers ...	...	...	...	42	...	...	42
No. of visits to Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	35	...	...	35
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.							
No. of Producers in Area ...	...	...	...	(2,500	in whole	le Dist	RICT)
No. of Retail Purveyors in Area ...	...	...	...	42	...	...	42
No. of Visits to Cowsheds ...	...	...	...	201	56	108	365
No. of New Cowsheds provided ...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
No. of Cowsheds reconditioned ...	...	...	...	3	12	...	15
Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Visits re Sampling—							
Milk—Bacteriological ...	...	...	...	8	...	6	14
Shell Fish—Bacteriological ...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11
Water—Chemical and Bacteriological ...	...	...	...	21	15	17	53
Miscellaneous Food Visits ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NOTICES SERVED.							
Under Housing Acts.							
No. of informal notices served ...	...	...	...	3	17	...	20
No. of informal notices complied with ...	...	...	...	3	4	...	7
No. of formal notices served ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
No. of formal notices complied with ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Under the Public Health Acts.							
No. of informal notices served ...	...	...	...	5	2	...	7
No. of informal notices complied with ...	...	...	...	7	2	...	9
No. of formal notices served ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. of formal notices complied with ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Under the Milk and Dairies Order: 1926.							
No. of informal notices served ...	...	...	...	...	7	...	7
No. of informal notices complied with ...	...	...	...	3	7	...	10



